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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4316
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMCONSUL DANANG 995
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2579

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6637

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: CANDIDATES IN LAM DONG

1. THIRTEEN CANDIDATES FILED IN THE RACE FOR LAM DONG'S SINGL LOWER HOUSE SEAT. THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION COMMITTEE REJECTED TWO OF THE CANDIDATES, AND ONE OTHER CANDIDATE WITHDREW. BIO DATA ON THE TEN REMAING CANDIDATES FOLLOWS:

A. NGUYEN VAN NHUE, 20 AUGUST 1938, BAC GIANG, CATHOLIC, GRADUATE OF SAIGON UNIVERSITY; PROFESSOR AT BAO LOC AGRICULTU AL

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HIGH SCHOOL; HE REFUSED TO REPRESENT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TRAN VAN HUONG.

B. DINH VIET THIEU, 13 SEPTEMBER 1930, BUI CHU, CATHOLIC, SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN AND OWNER OF SMALL HOTEL IN BAO LOC.

C. NGUYEN PHUC THI, 2 SEPTEMBER 1939, THANH HOA, CATHOLIC,

PROFILMED BY RSB
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Ingalls DATE 12/14/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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FORMERLY STUDENT AT TAN THANH SEMINARY IN BAO LOC, LAM DONG; PRESENTLY DEPUTY DISTRICT CHIEF, REPORTEDLY IN CAI BE, DINH TONG.

D. LE DUC OUNG. 1 NOVEMBER 1939, THANH HOA, CATHOLIC, FORMER STUDENT AT TAN THANH SEMINARY; HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER.

E. NGUYEN LONG VAN AKA NGUYEN VAN THOC, 13 SEPTEMBER 1926, HUNG YEN, CATHOLIC. TEACHER AT PHAN DINH PHUNG HIGH SCHOOL IN BAO LOC.

F. PHAM VAN PHO AKA CHINH THANH, 23 SEPTEMBER 1939, NINH BINH CATHOLIC, GRADUATE OF UNIVERSITY OF SAIGON, FACULTY OF LAW; REPORTEDLY ACTIVE IN SAIGON STUDENT POLITICS IN EARLY 60'S; OCCASIONAL REPORTER FOR SAIGON NEWSPAPER, TU DO; RESIDES IN SAIGON BUT HAS MANY RELATIVES IN LAM DON.

G. LE MINH TIEN, 14 MAY 1938, NAM DINH, CATHOLIC. ARVN LIEUTENANT; FORMERLY DOCTOR AT BAO LOC MILITARY HOSPITAL; NOW PRACTICING AT MILITARY HOSPITAL IN DALAT.

H. HUYNH CONG TINH, 17 SEPTEMBER 1913, THUA THIEN, CATHOLIC. RETIRED ARVN LIEUTENANT COLONEL; FORMER PROVINCE CHIEF OF LAM DONG OURING DIEM ERA; DESPITE THE PASSAGE OF TIME, RUMORS OF TINH'S CORRUPTION PERSIST IN LAM DONG.

I. PHAM VAN LAM AKA HIEP LANG, 3 MAY 1919, HANOI, BUDDHIST. ROMER ARVN MAJOR; ONCE A PROVINCE CHIEF IN NORTH VIETNAM UNDE FSCH; [redacted]; ONCE MEMBER NOW SYMPATHIZER OF DAI VIET PARTY; ANTI-DIEMIST WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE SPENT 8 YE RS HIDING IN A MY THO PAGODA AVOIDING ARREST; PRESENTLY DEPUTY CHIEF OF CENSUS GRIEVANCE OFFICE IN LAM DONG; STATES HE ENTER D RACE ON URGING OF SENATOR-ELECT DANG VAN SUNG.

b-1 e.d.

J. TRAN TAN MUI, 10 OCTOBER 1918, THANH HOA, CATHOLIC. SMALL TEA GROWER; MEMBER AND DIRECTOR OF LAM DONG TEA GROWERS CO-OPERATIVE.

2. THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES WERE REJECTED BY THE PROVINCIAL

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ELECTION COUNCIL.

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A. K'NAM, 1925, LAM DONG. KOHO SPEAKING MONTAGNARD. REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT FOR MONTAGNARD AFFAIRS IN DILINH DISTRICT, LAM DONG. REJECTED ON GROUNDS THAT AS A MONTAGNARD HE MUST RUN FOR ONE OF SIX SPECIAL SEATS RESERVED FOR MONTAGNARDS, NONE OF WHICH IS IN LAM DONG.

B. NGUYEN THANH CONG, 19 APRIL 1939, BIEN HOA, CATHOLIC. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE; FROMERLY INTERPRETER FOR IVS; NOW CORDS AREA SPECIALIST IN LAM DONG. CONG WAS REJECTED BECAUSE HIS MILITAR STATUS DOCUMENTS WERE FILED LATE. CONG IS APPEALING THIS RULI G ON GROUNDS THAT HIS DOCUMENTS ARE IN ORDER AND THAT THEY WERE FILED LATE DUE TO DELAYS AT THE MOBILIZATION BUREAU WHIC WERE BEYONG HIS CONTROL.

3. NGUYEN HUU KHAI WITHDREW HIS CANDIDACY. KHAI WAS BORN ON 1 JUNE 1910 IN QUANG TRI AND IS A CATHOLIC. HE SERVED IN THE FIRST TWO NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE DIEM ERA.

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4. THE FACT THAT ALL BUT ONE OF THE TEN REMAINING CANDIDATES ARE CATHOLICS REFLECTS POLITICAL REALITY IN PREDOMINANTLY NORTHERN CATHOLIC LAM DONG. INFLUENTIAL PRIEST FATHER [redacted] HAS NOT YET REVEALED WHOM HE WILL SUPPORT. [redacted] CONSIDERS NGUYEN VAN NHUE, LE MINH TIEN, TRAN TAN MUI AND PRESENTLY DISQUALIFIED NGUYEN THANH CONG GOOD CANDIDATES. PERHAPS [redacted] IS AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF CONG'S APPEAL BEFORE MAKING UP HIS MIND. OTHER CATHOLICS SAY THE REACE IS BETWEEN CONG AND NHUE AND THAT FATHER [redacted] WILL PROBABLY BACK CONG IF HIS CANDIDACY IS ACCEPTED. BUNKER

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